DECLASSIFIED

MONDAY
MAY 3, 1954

I've given up the mud baths, after only one try, in favor of reading and sightseeing. It rained last night and this morning. The atmosphere is cool and damp. Lunched at noon with the Lanes -- scampi. They left immediately afterwards for Ravenna, Florence, Rome. We went to Padua. Fine old city; park surrounded by statues is delightful. I was disappointed in the Church of St. Anthony. Everywhere in this region there is a wealth of statuary. Its use in these surroundings transforms the appearance of otherwise plain houses, and crowns the charm of the beautiful ones.

We went to Stra, and saw the stables of the Villa Foscarini, then crossed the canal and viewed the fascinating Villa Barbarigo from the rear. It is like a central European manor house. We went off the main road to visit Noventa, which has some attractive houses. We were out for five hours and, in spite of the showers, had a wonderful day. News in today's Italian papers of the assault on the gallant garrison at Dien Bien Phu is ghastly and heart-rending.

In this district, so remarkable for architectural specimens of exalted merit, indifference and ignorance of them seems almost universal. In Padua today I ransacked one of the leading bookstores, which had shelves of volumes in Italian, English and French on ancient and modern painting, sculpture, music, as well as two expensive works on modern architecture by Americans, but only one desolate and dusty volume on Padua's own distinguished master, Andrea Palladio. We have now had two chauffeurs, born and brought up in this vicinity, who were bewildered and bemused by our interest in the local villas.

Our rooms are sprayed each day with DDT but the mosquitoes remain pestiferous. An If through Mongrédien's Le Masque de Fer. He has disposed of the possibility that the prisoner could have been the brother of Louis XIV (primarily an invention of Dumas) but has not yet advanced another conjecture, and is hesitating between Danger and Matthioli.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY CEC DATE 7-1-81
XDS☐or XDS☐EXT. DATE
REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☐ RELEASABLE☐
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

UNCLASSIFIED

Ate for the fourth time running a paillard de veau -- a flattened-out veal steak [redacted] the Italians excel in. In their cuisine, lemon juice is often used on meat to good effect.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

REVIEWED BY LEe DATE 7-1-81

XS☐ or XDS☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED☑ RELEASABLE☑
RELEASE DENIED☐
PA or FOI EXEMPTIONS

UNCLASSIFIED